



# The NUNES Report

## Nunes bill seeks water law improvement

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*Bill would ensure stable water supply for communities throughout the Valley*

After more than 13 years on the books, Rep. Devin Nunes said it's time to change select portions of Central Valley water law that has proven unduly burdensome to users and ineffective for environmental benefits.

Rep. Nunes introduced the Central Valley Project Reform Act of 2005. The bill seeks to amend parts of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA), which the congressman said contains provisions that have not been met; are punitive; and result in no environmental benefit.

"Even the staunchest supporters of CVPIA recognize that it has failed on a number of counts," Rep. Nunes said. "This bill corrects those problems and makes sure our precious water resources are managed efficiently and the program is accountable to achieve its goals."

In 1992, CVPIA was intended to make water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes an equal priority with fish and wildlife uses, and to make wildlife enhancement an equal priority with power generation. Yet, after more than a decade and expenditure of more than \$750 million, the result is diminished water reliability for users and no identifiable benefit for the environment.



**A bill introduced by Rep. Devin Nunes would make many new improvements to the management of water in the Central Valley, including better water reliability and enhanced environmental efforts.**

Rep. Nunes' Reform Act preserves and clarifies several provisions under the CVPIA, some of which include:

- Continues to reserve 800,000 acre-feet of CVP water for the environment, but clarifies how such water will be accounted for.

- Maintains current CVPIA obligation to provide firm water supplies to wildlife refuges and to increase supplies over 10 years.

- Maintains Restoration Fund and surcharges on CVP water and power customers.

- Maintains the current CVPIA obligation to reduce refuge supplies by no more than 25 percent due to drought or other conditions, but clarifies that refuge re-

ductions shall be imposed whenever shortages are imposed on CVP contractors within the same Division.

- Continues to target restoration efforts on salmon and steelhead species.

- Directs Department of the Interior to continue to facilitate transfers and clarifies that the CVPIA transfer provisions are not meant to impede beneficial water management practices, including those that occurred before the CVPIA enactment.

**Among the changes the bill seeks to enact includes:**

- Prohibits the release of water from Friant Dam for

### Quick Facts

In August, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,345 constituents in response to their inquiries.

Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 10,960 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 39,077 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.

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## Congress passes Nunes' Highway 99 improvement

Highway 99 is now eligible for an extensive federal face lift thanks to Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Visalia.

Two key provisions written by Rep. Nunes were included in a national transportation bill that was agreed to by members of the House of Representatives and Senate. The first provision designates Hwy 99 as a national high-priority corridor, which makes it eligible for new federal dollars. The second provision makes Hwy 99 eligible to become a federal interstate.

The transportation bill funds projects over a six-year period. The bill will be sent to the President for a signature

"This is a historic opportunity for Highway 99, which has been neglected far too long," Rep. Nunes said. "I look forward to seeing the state and federal governments quickly begin negotiations to bring the roadway into the federal interstate system with the improvements that new federal dollars can provide.

"My goal all along has been to make Highway 99 a six lane freeway from Bakersfield to Sacramento. It now looks like we are on the

right path to see that accomplished."

The federal transportation bill also includes money for several projects in Fresno and Tulare counties, including:

\$7.6 million for Highway 180 improvements in Fresno

\$6.5 million to widen Highway 99 from Goshen to Kingsburg

\$3.2 million for farm-to-market roads in Tulare County

\$2.8 million to improve traffic flows between connected highways in Fresno

\$2.4 million to widen Highway 198 from Highway 99 to State Route 43

\$1.6 million to widen the Ben Maddox Way bridge in Visalia

\$1.2 million for traffic improvements to Ave. 416 near Dinuba

\$1.6 million to widen Friant Road to four lanes with bicycle lanes

\$240,000 for traffic improvements to Willow and



Herndon in Clovis

"Thanks to Congressman Nunes, we've got a green light to move forward with widening Highway 99," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Connie Conway.

Supervisor Conway said the recently approved transportation bill means \$3.2 million in additional farm-to-market funding, and more than \$1 million designated for the Avenue 416 widening project.

"Our efforts with Congressman Nunes will provide more funding for local roads, reduced traffic congestion, and greater safety for motorists," Conway said.

## Nunes announces fire grants for communities

Federal funds for a new fire vehicle, training, as well as search and rescue equipment are among a number of grants being awarded to communities in Fresno and Tulare counties, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

The grants are being made available through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Preparedness Program. The grants are aimed at helping improve firefighting health and safety programs, as well as expand fire prevention programs.

"I am pleased that communities in the 21st District continue to successfully apply for and get

their fair share of federal funds we appropriated in Congress," Rep. Devin Nunes said. "These grants are a tremendous supplement to the budgets of fire departments in smaller communities, which ensure that our brave firefighters have the best training and new equipment to do their job."

The grant awards include:

- \$233,391 to Hume Lake Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company for vehicle purchase

- \$44,909 to Porterville Fire Department for operations and safety

- \$25,172 to Clovis Fire Department for operations

and safety

Grantees are required to share in the cost of the funded project by providing a match of 20 percent of the project cost. The matching requirement is reduced for small community organizations as follows: Grantees that serve jurisdictions of 50,000 or fewer residents are required to provide a non-Federal cost-share of 10 percent and grantees serving less than 20,000 residents will require a 5 percent match. The match must be in cash without the use of in-kind contributions.

## Nunes hosts three top officials in Valley

Rep. Devin Nunes welcomed three top federal officials to the Central Valley during August.

Medicare Administrator Mark McClellan came to Fresno Aug. 11 to talk to the congressman and health care officials about the new prescription drug benefit to go into effect in January. Senior citizens on Medicare are encouraged to enroll in the program beginning in November. The new drug benefit will mean substantial savings for the cost of prescription medication, especially for those who are on very low incomes.

On Aug. 12, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns stopped in Fresno at the request of Rep. Nunes to speak

to farmers and community leaders about the upcoming Farm Bill to be considered by Congress and the Administration.

He later participated in the grand opening of the Valley's first ethanol plant in Goshen.

Then, on Aug. 15, Bob Goodlatte, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture came to Clovis to tour Wawona Frozen Foods with the congressman. Wawona produces many healthy products for school lunches, to which the chair-



**Rep. Devin Nunes, right, speaks with Medicare Administrator Mark McClellan, left, during a meeting in August.**

man said, "Get them (to our schools) in the east."

## Nunes gathers vets for history project

Working with the Library of Congress, Rep. Devin Nunes hosted the first of several events to record the war stories of veterans in the 21st Congressional District.

"We must never forget nor take for granted the cost of freedom that continues to preserve our way of life," Rep. Nunes said. "The history of that sacrifice is stored in the hearts and minds of the men and women of our military who make the effort. By recording their stories and gathering their mementos, we can preserve and learn from them for generations to come."

Rep. Nunes kicked off the Veterans Oral History Project at the Clovis American Legion Hall, Post 147 HQ in Clovis.

The need to document the

experiences of U.S. veterans is at an all-time high. As many as 1,600 veterans die every day, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. In the 21st Congressional District, which covers all of Tulare County and about a third of Fresno County, there are more than 41,200 veterans.

Volunteers were on hand to record the stories of veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf or the current War on Terror. The audio interviews and any memorabilia were documented and shipped to the Library of Congress. Samples of interviews already on hand can be seen at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets).

Veterans interested in telling their wartime remem-



**Rep. Devin Nunes talks with James Bray of Clovis about his experiences as a young Merchant Marine serving in the Pacific during World War II.**

brances should make an appointment for future events by contacting Rep. Nunes' office at (559)733-3861 or (559) 323-5235.

### Quick Facts

In August, Rep. Nunes organized tours of the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, National Archives, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Mt. Vernon for 121 constituents.

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purposes other than flood control or to meet contractual obligations.

- Requires that the proceeds of the Friant surcharge be used primarily for San Joaquin actions that contribute to the achievement of Bay/Delta obligations as ap-

propriate.

- Provides for CVPIA payments to be credited against repayment of the CVP.

- Provides for the use of Restoration funds collected from Friant Division be used for water acquisition and facility construction.

- Replaces the CVP only obligation to double anadromous fish with a requirement of participation in the large state effort established by the Salmon, Steelhead, Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program.

## Nunes, Costa co-host dairy air quality town hall

Reps. Devin Nunes and Jim Costa hosted a dairy air quality town hall meeting with air quality experts, dairy industry representatives and individual dairymen to discuss continued research on dairy emissions and the recent tentative agreement between the industry and air regulators.

The meeting was held Aug. 29, at the University of California Center—Fresno.

The town hall was in response to a ruling by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District setting new regulations on dairy air emissions. The scientific data used to formulate the regulation was brought into question by the industry and scientists who have studied air quality around dairies.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the dairy industry have reached a tentative agreement on a process for resolving the problems associated with emissions.

The town hall was aimed at informing the congressman of the history and science of the ruling, as well as to determine what steps will be taken to gain consensus on the issue.

Among those who spoke at the event were:

Richard Cotta, Senior Vice President, California Dairies Inc., and President, Community Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES).

Paul Martin, Director of Environmental Services, Western United Dairymen

J.P. Cativiela, Program Coordinator, CARES

Denise Mullinax, Hilmar Cheese Company

Charles Krauter, Ph.D., California State University, Fresno

Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., University of California, Davis

Representatives of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board also attended.



**Three dairy cows relax in an air-tight chamber at the University of California, Davis, that measures their emissions. Computers are used to identify and categorize the gases over a specified period of time.**

**Reps. Jim Costa and Devin Nunes, far right, listen to presentations by scientists, dairy industry and air pollution district representatives, left during the town hall.**



**A monitoring station set up by California State University, Fresno, monitors air quality downwind from a dairy in Hanford.**

**The station, right, is one of several set up around the dairy to capture emissions, which are analyzed and identified. Plans are already in place to conduct more extensive research around dairies in the months ahead.**



### Quick Facts

In August, Rep. Nunes helped 50 constituents overcome problems with government agencies.

For the year, the Congressman has directly solved cases for 340 constituents and is currently assisting 525 others.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has directly solved cases for 1,340 constituent.